

Connecticut Women's Voices 2000

*A Comprehensive Polling
and Research Project on
Women's Values and
Policy Priorities for the
Economy
October 2000*



Lifetime
Television for Women



Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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Preface

The Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, an agency of the state legislature, has a mandate to conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women and to inform leaders of the nature and scope of the problem of sex discrimination. This year, the Commission worked in partnership with the Center for Policy Alternatives and Lifetime Television to conduct the *Women's Voices 2000* polling project in Connecticut. It is a comprehensive polling and research project on women's values and policy priorities for the economy.

The Center for Policy Alternatives is a national non-profit, non-partisan public policy and leadership development center devoted to community-based solutions that strengthen families and communities. Lifetime is the number one television network for women and is committed to offering the highest quality entertainment and information programming and advocating a wide range of issues affecting women and their families.

In 1992, CPA conducted its first *Women's Voices* poll aimed at discovering the most critical issues to American women across the country. This poll identified the gender gap in politics and policy and provided the catalyst to reframe the political debate to address the economic concerns of women. *Women's Voices '96: Solutions for the New Economy* identified the top concerns of women and asked for their thoughts on solutions. *Women's Voices 2000* data continues the trend captured in the two previous polls.

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Key Findings From the Connecticut Survey

1. Many Connecticut women do not believe their families have shared in the current economic prosperity. They are asking, “Is this as good as it gets?”

As many as 57% of all Connecticut women said the current economic boom has not reached them and their families, compared to 44% of Connecticut men. Not all groups in Connecticut are sharing equally in prosperity: Seven out of ten women of color say the economic boom has not reached their households, as do 65% of women and 57% of men without college education. (Charts 1, 2, 3)

2. Women most want economic security throughout their life cycles, and safer communities. An overwhelming majority of women in Connecticut strongly support the following policies:

- **Equal Pay and Benefits**
- **Job-Independent, Affordable Health Care**
- **Retirement Benefits that are Portable from Job to Job**
- **Stronger Gun Safety Laws**

Between 81% and 87% of women rated these ideas very highly. Next on the list for women was a proposal to reduce the cost of prescription medication prices for the uninsured. Men also said that portable retirement benefits, equal pay and benefits, and job-independent, affordable health care were very good ideas, but included lower taxes in their list of top four ideas. (Chart 4)

(more)



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Key Findings continued

From the Connecticut Survey

3. Women are concerned both about economic security and about the well being of our children and communities. The top concerns for many women in Connecticut are education, retirement and Social security, health care, and moral decline.

Twenty percent of Connecticut women said they worry most about education, compared to 16% of men who said that was their top concern. Retirement and Social Security were the top concern for 17% of women. Overall, women and men have a wide range of concerns, with more men identifying economy and jobs, and taxes at the top of the list. (Chart 5)

4. Elected officials are not getting a complete picture of economic conditions in our state partly because those who have been left out of the economic prosperity are the least likely to vote.

Among people who are not registered to vote, as well as among those who say they are not likely to vote, nearly seven out of ten say the economic boom has not reached them. (Chart 6)

5. Connecticut women and men overwhelmingly agree that state government should do more to help uninsured individuals get affordable health coverage.

As many as 82% of women and 73% of men thought that we should not leave this problem to the marketplace, but that Connecticut state government should do more to help. This response was strong regardless of race, education level, marital status or party affiliation, and in spite of the fact that three-quarters of women and men reported that they personally felt secure about their health care coverage. For example, ninety percent of women of color said that state government should do more. Party differences emerged, but large majorities of all women advocate more government action: 88% of Democrats, 84% of Independents and 69% of Republicans say that state government should do more.

(Charts 7, 8, 9)

(more)

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Key Findings continued

From the Connecticut Survey

6. A majority of Connecticut women and men also agree that more should be done to expand the availability of good, affordable child care, although more women feel this way than do men.

More than two thirds of women (68%) and more than half of men (54%) say that more should be done to expand the availability of good, affordable child care. Women of color are much more likely than white women to say that more should be done – 80% of women of color compared to 66% of white women – although it is still a healthy majority for all groups. Moreover, women and men say that more should be done in this area regardless of whether they have children. (Charts 10, 11)

7. Women and men support several approaches to helping small businesses get started and grow, with some looking to financial institutions to increase loans and credit to small business, and others looking to government to provide low interest loans and increase access to contracts to women and minorities.

Over one-third of women and men believe that banks and other financial institutions should make it easier for small business to qualify for loans and credits, and another quarter believe the government should help by providing more low interest loans. A significant number of women of color (19%) say that government can also help by increasing access to contracts for women and minority owned businesses. (Charts 12, 13)

(more)



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Key Findings continued

From the Connecticut Survey

8. Women in Connecticut feel the “time crunch” more than women in other parts of the country. A majority of Connecticut women report that juggling work and family demands has gotten harder, not easier, over the last four years.

As many as 57% of all women say that it is harder than it was four years ago to juggle work and family demands, and 72% of women of color feel this way. Significantly more women in Connecticut feel this way than do women in the nation as a whole, where only 39% reported that the time crunch has gotten harder. (Charts 14, 15)

9. Women and men agree that women get paid less, on average, than men get paid for the same work.

As many as 81% of women and 64% of men in Connecticut agree that women get paid less than men do, on average, for the same work. More women in Connecticut feel this way than do women in the country as a whole, where 72% of women say that women get paid less. By contrast, slightly fewer men feel this way in Connecticut than do men in the country as a whole, where 68% of men say that women get paid less. (Chart 16)

10. Women want shorter and more flexible hours and a job that pays more.

When asked what would most help to improve family life, Connecticut women and men identified strategies that address economic security, the time crunch, and the safety and values of family and community all at once: they want shorter and more flexible hours (23% women and 21% men) and a job that pays more (18% both women and men). Women also identified more help with housework (11%) and more help with family responsibilities (7%), while men identified the ability to start a business (10%) and fewer outside activities (8%) as ways to improve family life. (Chart 17)

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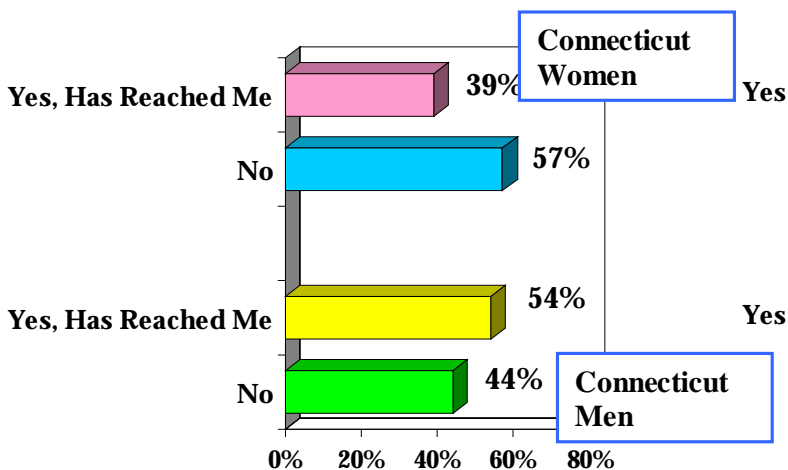


Charts - Key Finding #1

Chart #1

Connecticut women do not believe they or their families have shared in the nation's current economic prosperity, and more than half of women say the current economic boom has not reached them and their families. Men, however, are more optimistic, and more than half say the current boom has reached them. Connecticut women mirror women nationwide, while Connecticut men are more likely than their peers nationwide to say the economic boom has reached their doorsteps.

Many people say that the country is in the midst of an economic boom. Thinking about your own financial situation, has the current economic boom reached people like you and your family or not really?



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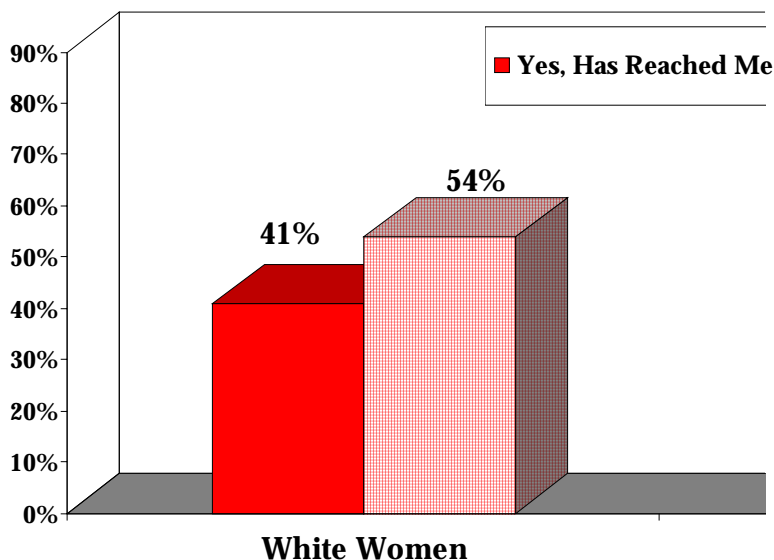
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Charts - Key Finding #1

Chart # 2

Women of color are significantly more pessimistic about their current economic situations than white women, and seven out of ten women of color say the economic boom has not reached their households.

Many people say that the country is in the midst of an economic boom. Thinking about your own financial situation, has the current economic boom reached people like you and your family or not really?



Women over 60 (23 percent yes, 74 percent no) are more likely than their younger counterparts to say the boom has not reached them – 40 percent, 59 percent among women under 30, 43 percent among women 45-59.

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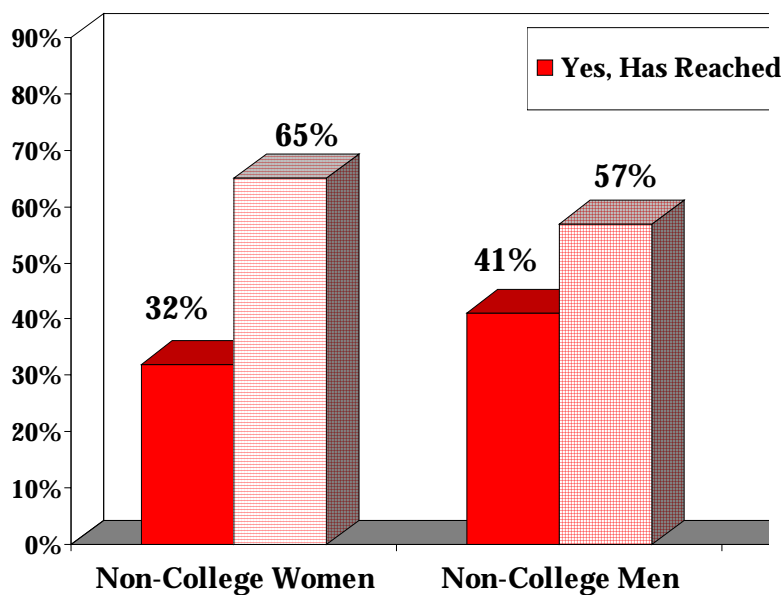


Charts - Key Finding #1

Chart # 3

Class is increasingly dividing America: College-educated men and women see the economic boom affecting their lives, while non-college-educated men and women feel left behind by the current economy.

Many people say that the country is in the midst of an economic boom. Thinking about your own financial situation, has the current economic boom reached people like you and your family or not really?



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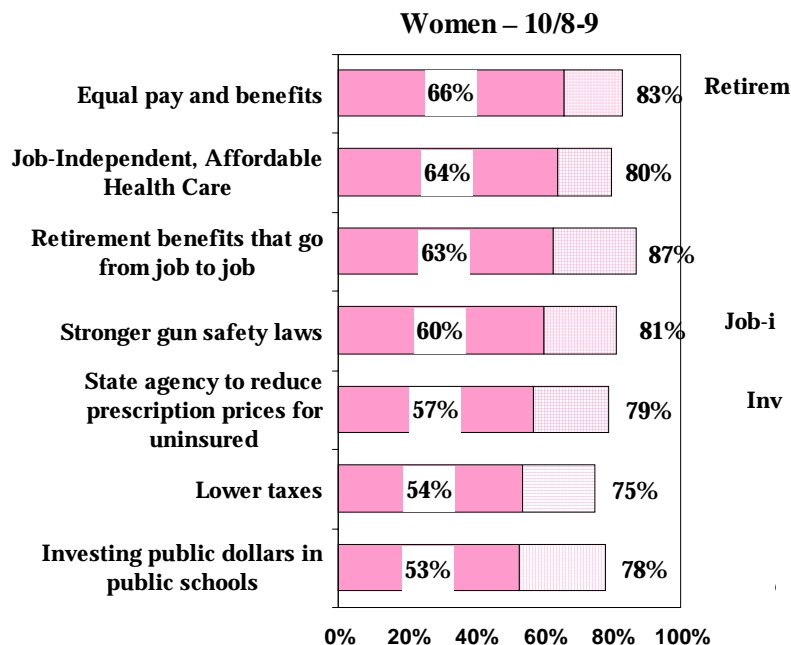
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Charts - Key Finding #2

Chart # 4

The policy agenda is diffuse, and women and men have different priorities for improving peoples' lives. Women place equal pay and benefits, followed by job-independent, affordable health care and retirement benefits that move from job to job at the top of their lists. Men look first to retirement benefits, followed by equal pay and benefits and lower taxes to increase income.

Now for something slightly different. I am going to read you a list of items. For each item, please tell me how good of an idea you think it is and rate each on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it is one of the worst ideas, and 10 means it is one of the best ideas.



*Split Sampled Questions.

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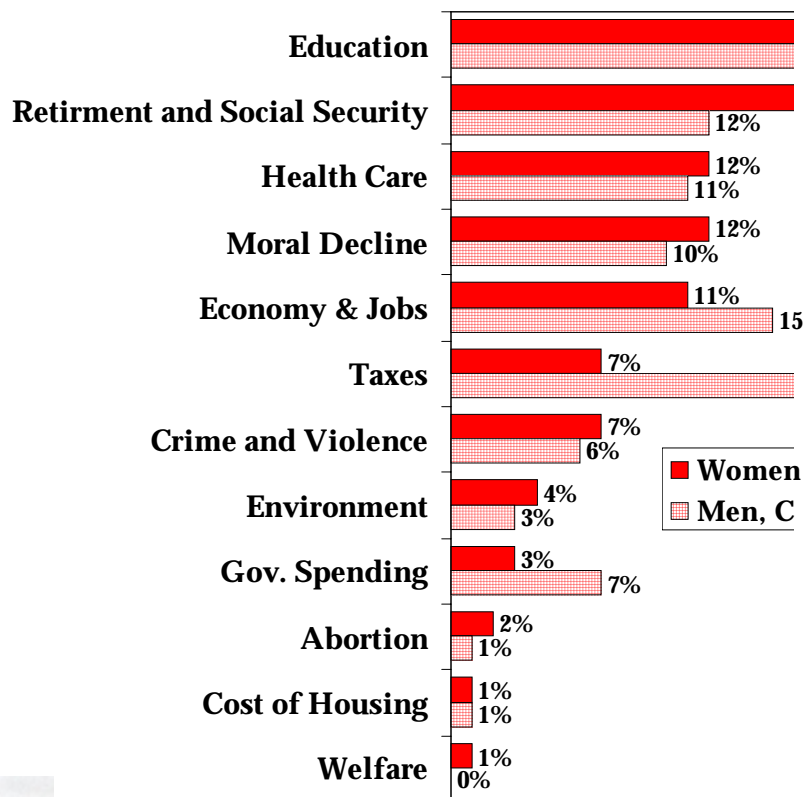


Charts - Key Finding #3

Chart # 5

The issue agenda is diffuse and both Connecticut men and women have a diverse range of concerns. Women top their lists with education, followed by retirement and Social Security and health care. Men have more economic concerns listing education, followed by taxes and the economy and jobs as their top concerns. Men are more than twice as likely as women to list taxes as a concern.

Now I am going to read you a list of concerns that some people have. Please tell me which one of these you personally worry about the most.



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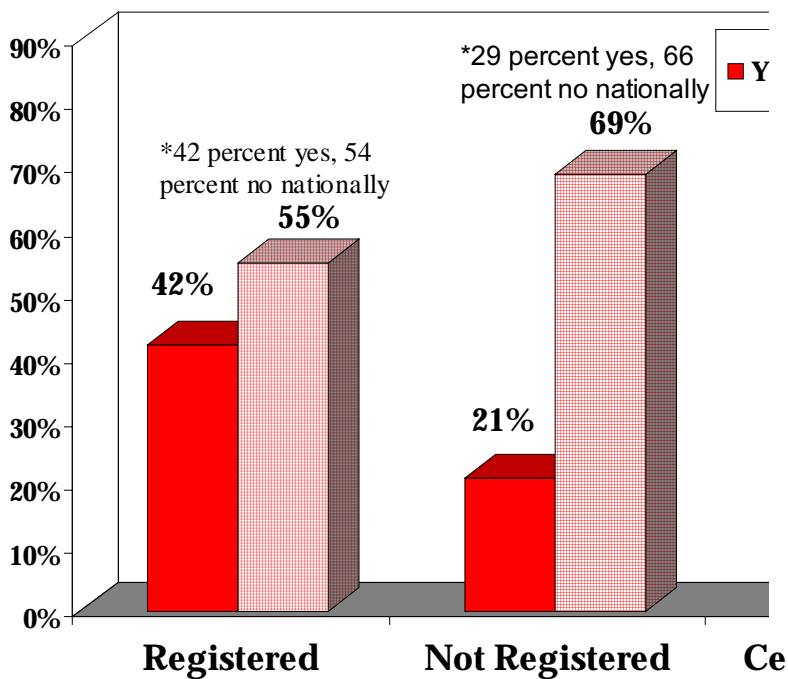
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Charts - Key Finding #4

Chart # 6

Electoral participation distorts feedback on the economy — non-registered women and those less likely to vote are more likely to say the economic boom has not reached their families.

Many people say that the country is in the midst of an economic boom. Thinking about your own financial situation, has the current economic boom reached people like you and your family or not really?



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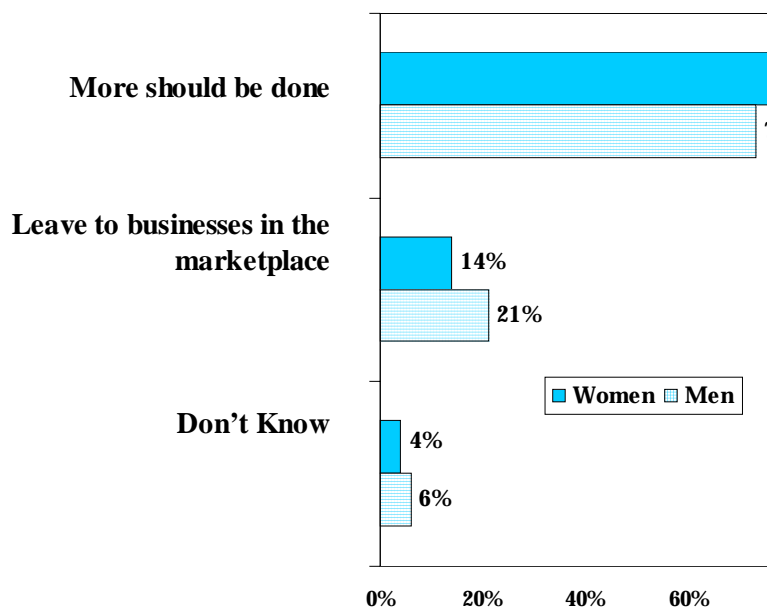


Charts - Key Finding #5

Chart # 7

Nonetheless, Connecticut men and women overwhelmingly believe the state government should do more to help uninsured individuals get affordable coverage – with more than eight out of ten women and seven out of ten men advocating state intervention. Moreover, women of color are even more likely than their white counterparts to believe the state should help.

In your view, should more be done by the Connecticut state government to help uninsured people get affordable health insurance or is this something better left to businesses in the marketplace?



*Younger women are significantly more likely than senior women to say the state government should do more to help uninsured people get affordable health insurance: 85 percent among women under 30, 85 percent among women 30-44, 79 percent among women 45-59, and 74 percent among women 60 and older.



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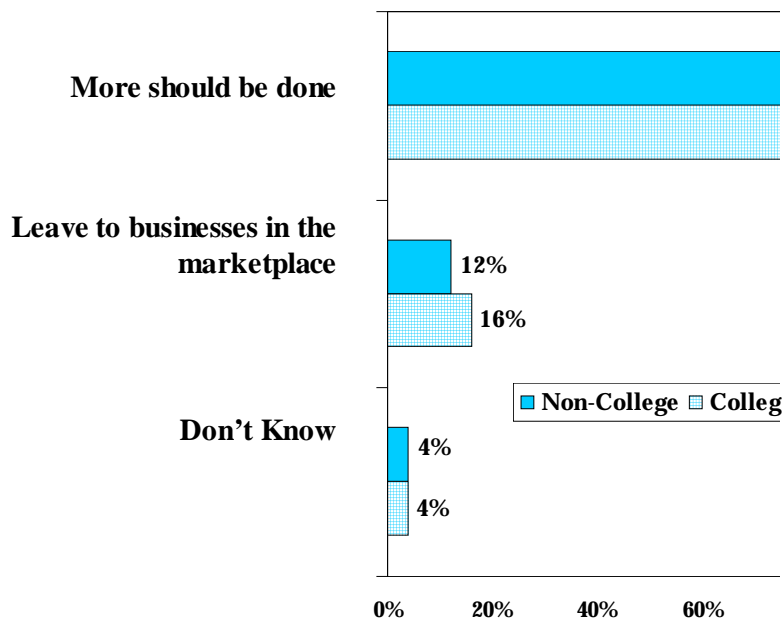
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Charts - Key Finding #5

Chart # 8

Eight out of ten women agree more should be done to help the uninsured regardless of educational attainment or marital status.

In your view, should more be done by the Connecticut state government to help uninsured people get affordable health insurance or is this something better left to businesses in the marketplace?



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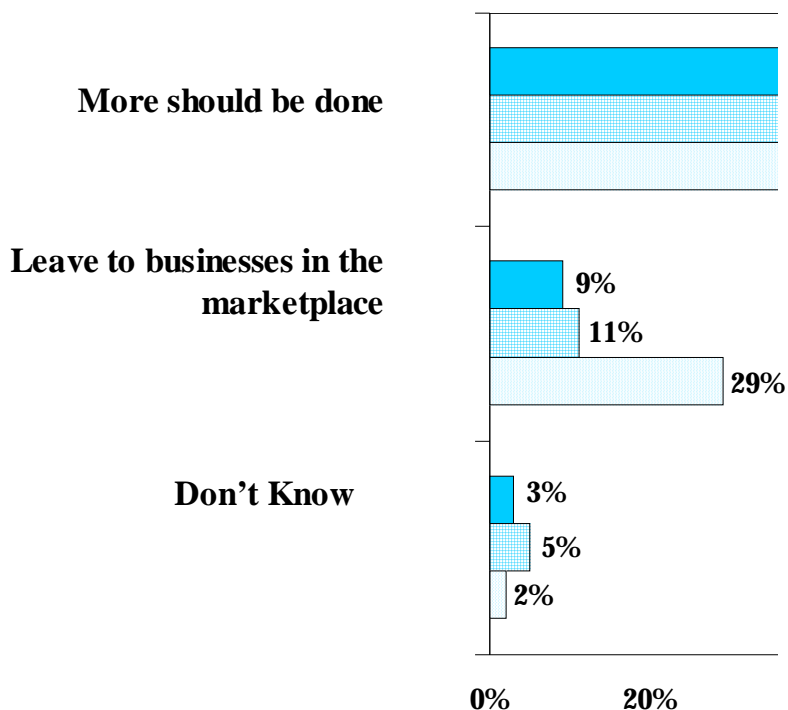


Charts - Key Finding #5

Chart # 9

Republican women are less likely to believe the Connecticut state government should do more to help uninsured people get health insurance, though seven out of ten Republican women still advocate government intervention.

In your view, should more be done by the Connecticut state government to help uninsured people get affordable health insurance or is this something better left to businesses in the marketplace?



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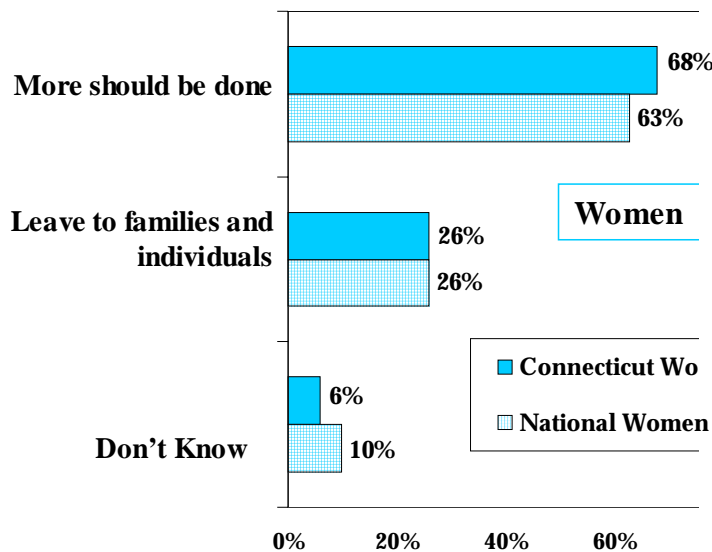
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Charts - Key Finding #6

Chart # 10

Although not one of their top concerns, both men and women would like expanded access to quality child care. A majority of adults agree something should be done to expand the availability of good, affordable child care, although women are significantly more likely than men to say something should be done.

Now let me ask you about a different subject. In your view, should more be done to expand the availability of good, affordable, child care, or is this something better left to families and individuals?



*Women of color are more likely than white women to say more should be done – 66 percent more, 15 percent left to the families among women of color. D than Independent (59 percent) and Republican women (61 percent) to call for program

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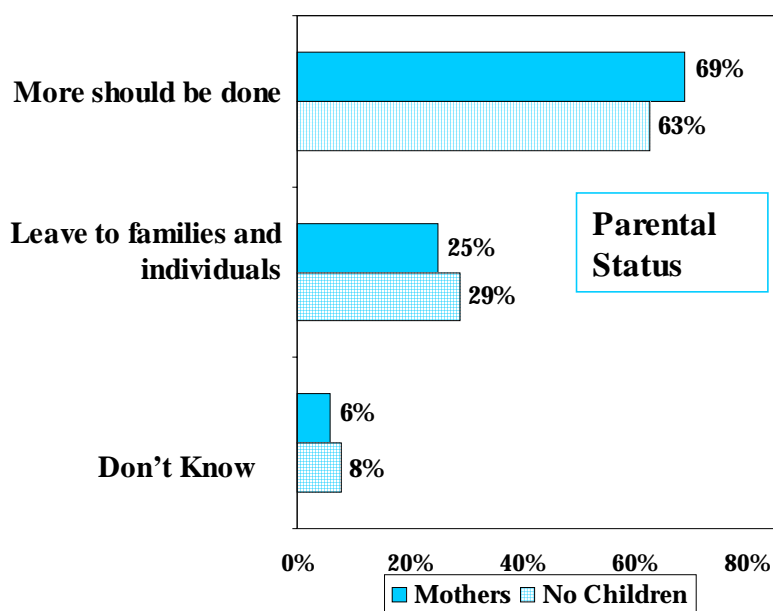


Charts - Key Finding #6

Chart # 11

Six out of ten women and more than half of men agree more should be done to expand the availability of quality child care regardless of whether they have children.

Now let me ask you about a different subject. In your view, should more be done to expand the availability of good, affordable, child care, or is this something better left to families and individuals?



*Sixty-seven percent of married women and sixty-nine percent of unmarried women call fo



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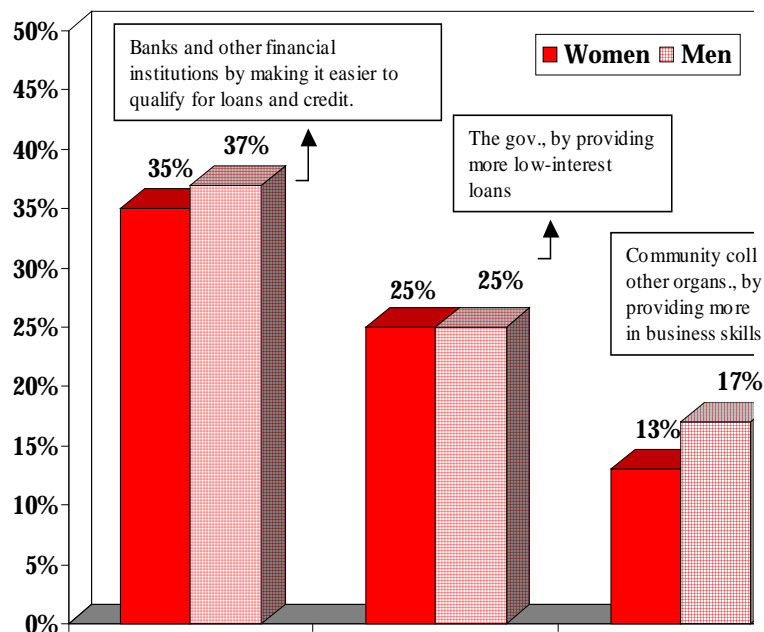
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Charts - Key Finding #7

Chart # 12

Connecticut adults would like to see banks and other financial institutions, by providing greater access to loans and credit, and the government, by providing more low-interest loans, help individuals start and expand their own small businesses.

Who could do the most to help more small businesses get started and grow?



*Connecticut women are slightly more likely than women nationwide to call on bank percent among women nationally; 23 percent, 28 percent low-interest loans; 11 perce private savings accounts; and 10 percent, 6 percent more contracts for women and m

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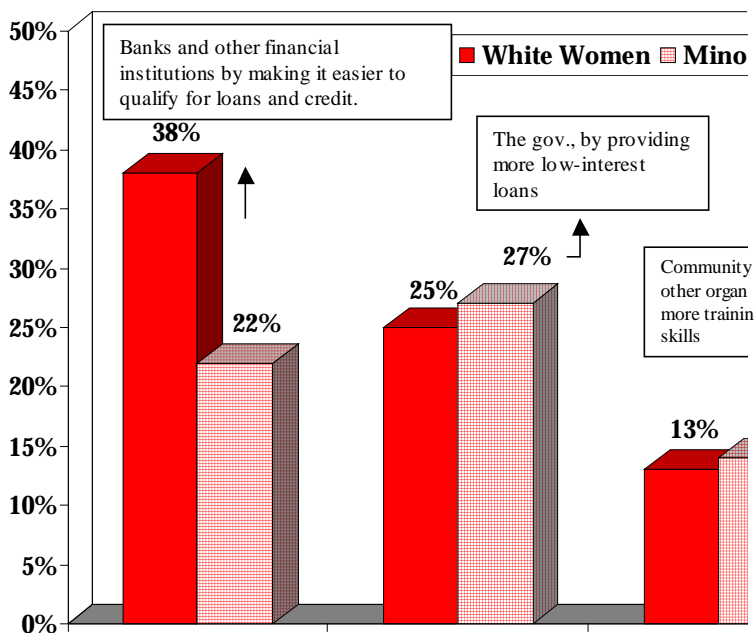


Charts - Key Finding #7

Chart # 13

White women are significantly more likely than women of color to enlist the help of financial institutions, while women of color call on the government to provide more low-interest loans, followed by the help of banks. Moreover, women of color are three times as likely as white women to call for increased access to contracts for women and minorities.

Who could do the most to help more small businesses get started and grow?



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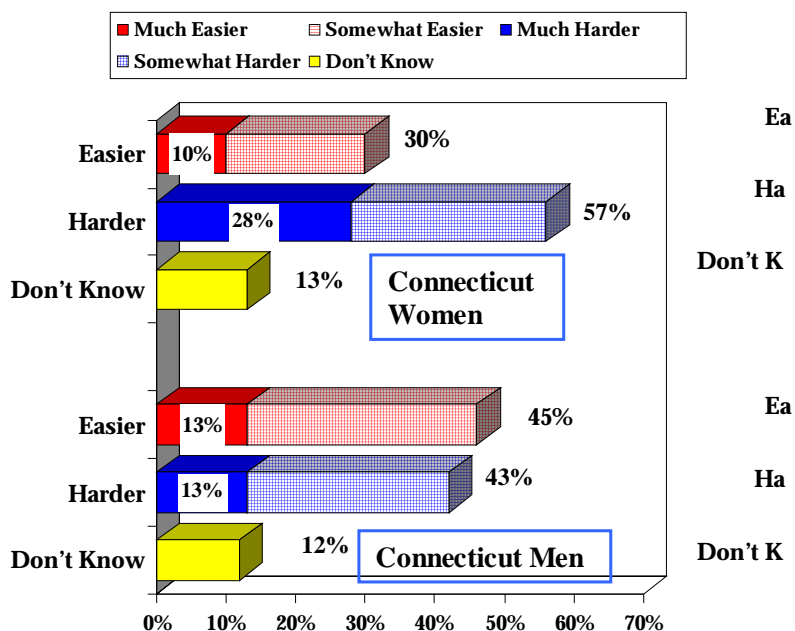
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Charts - Key Finding #8

Chart # 14

While half of Connecticut women say it has gotten harder to juggle work and family over the past four years, men split, leaning slightly toward thinking it is easier. Connecticut women are significantly more pessimistic about the time crunch than adults nationwide.

Compared to four years ago, do you feel it is getting easier or harder to juggle work and family demands?



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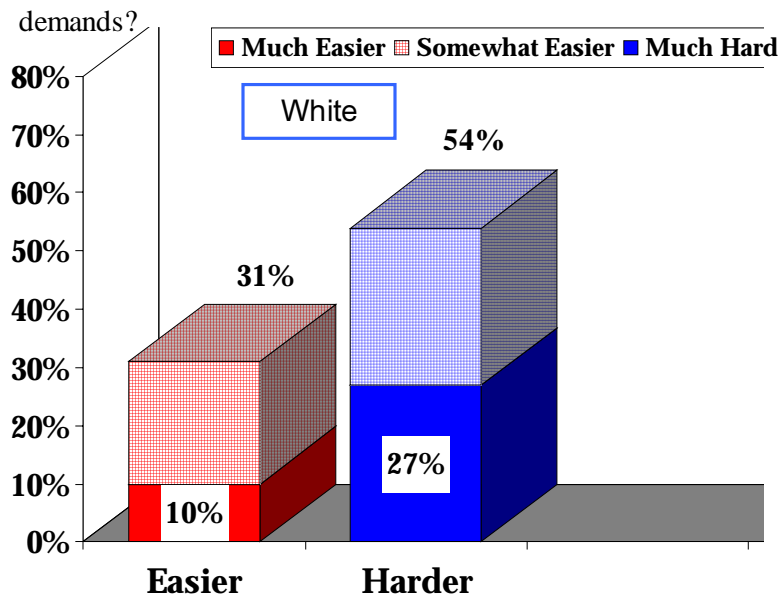


Charts - Key Finding #8

Chart # 15

Women of color are more likely than white women to say it has gotten harder to juggle work and family demands – just under three-quarters of women of color say it has gotten harder compared to half of white women.

Compared to four years ago, do you feel it is getting easier or harder to juggle work and family demands?



ot surprisingly, ease increases with age and younger women are much more 1 percent easier, 69 percent harder among women under 30, 27 percent, 66 perc
ong women 45-59, and 36 percent, 37 percent among women over 60.



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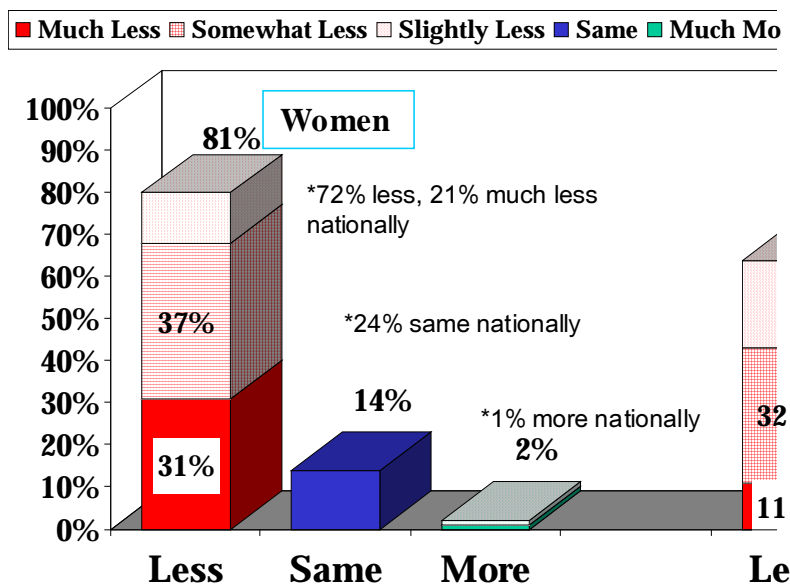
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Charts - Key Finding #9

Chart # 16

Equal pay for equal work is a driving concern, and both men and women agree women are not paid the same as men. However, women are significantly more likely than their male counterparts to say women get paid less than men for the same work. Connecticut women are more likely than women nationwide to think women are paid less than men, whereas men are nearly equal in their response.

On average, do you think that women get paid less, the same, or more than men who do the same work they do?



*More than seven out of ten women and a majority of men across every demographic group agree that women are not paid the same as men for the same work. Eight out of ten younger and older women say women get paid less than men (respectively), whereas only 59 percent of younger men say women get paid less than men.

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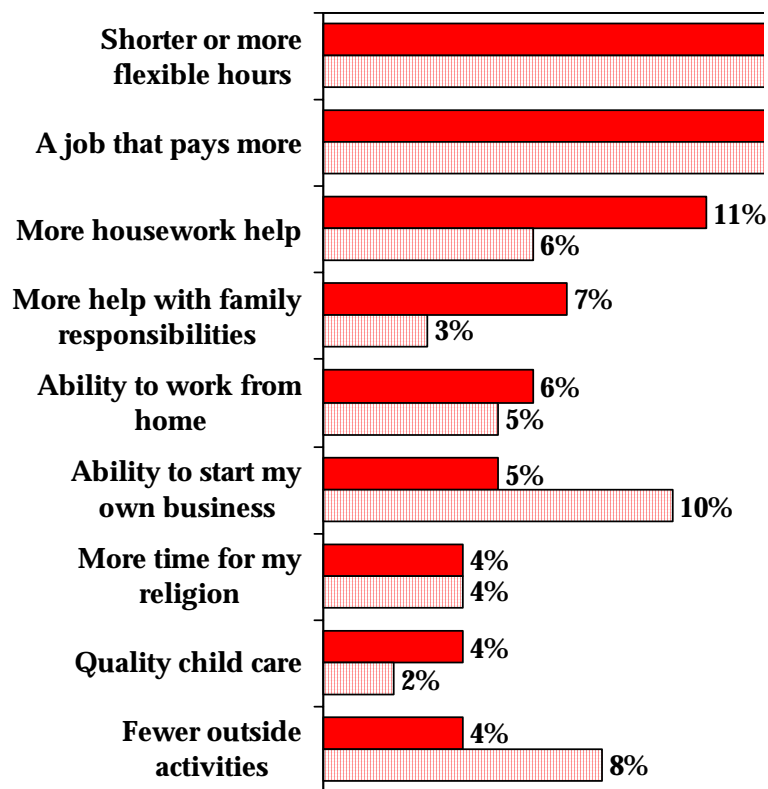


Charts - Key Finding #10

Chart # 17

Men and women are divided over what would most help to improve their family lives. At the top of their lists, both place shorter or more flexible hours, followed by a job that pays more. Women, however, are almost twice as likely as men to say they need more help with the housework and family responsibilities.

Which of the following would most help you to improve your family life?



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Executive Summary

prepared by Lake Snell Perry & Associates, Insight Research, American Viewpoint,
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Women's Concerns

- * The issue agenda is diffuse and both Connecticut men and women have a diverse range of concerns. Women top their lists with education, followed by retirement and Social Security and health care. Men have more economic concerns listing education, followed by taxes and the economy and jobs as their top concerns. Men are more than twice as likely as women to list taxes as a concern.
- * Connecticut adults resemble adults nationwide in their list of concerns. Connecticut men, however, are slightly more likely to worry about health care than men nationwide.
- * Women of color are more likely than their white counterparts to say they are most concerned about the economy and jobs, while white women are twice as likely as women of color to say they are most concerned about moral decline. Non-college and college-educated women share similar concerns.
- * Age matters – Women under 45 are most concerned about education and the economy and jobs, while senior women are most concerned about retirement and Social Security and health care.
- * Both men and women say they are most worried about moral decline, followed by keeping their children safe, Social Security being enough to support them when they retire, and having secure health insurance for their families even if they lose their job or get sick.
- * On a second tier, majorities of men and women say they are worried about saving enough for a financially secure retirement. They also add their children being able to get a college education and getting off to a good start, and the growing economic gap to their list. While women also add having enough time to their second tier, men add making ends meet.

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- * Adults are less worried about their ability to move up in their jobs and having affordable and dependable child care. Although a third tier response, a majority of Connecticut women worry about making ends meet.
- * Non-college-educated and college-educated women say they are most worried about moral values, keeping their children safe, and Social Security, though non-college-educated women are more intense in their concerns. Married and unmarried women also mirror each other's concerns with married women slightly more worried overall.
- * While women under 45 worry most about their children's future and keeping them safe, older women worry most about retirement security as well as morals and keeping kids safe.
- * Although not one of their top concerns, both men and women would like expanded access to quality child care. A majority of adults agree something should be done to expand the availability of good, affordable child care, although women are significantly more likely than men to say something should be done.
- * Six out of ten women and more than half of men agree more should be done to expand the availability of quality child care regardless of whether they have children.
- * Although the American health care crisis wages on, and Connecticut adults list health care as one of their top concerns, three quarters of Connecticut men and women say they feel secure in their family's health insurance coverage, a plurality of whom feel very secure.
- * Non-college women are significantly less likely than their college educated counterparts to say they feel secure in their family's insurance coverage, though two-thirds of non-college women still say they feel secure.



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- * More than seven out of ten women say they feel secure in their health insurance coverage regardless of marital status.
- * Moreover, Connecticut residents say they feel secure they will continue to have health insurance coverage down the line.
- * Women are 8 points less likely to say they feel secure they will continue to have coverage than say they are secure in their current coverage.
- * Given their less secure feelings surrounding health care coverage, non-college women are less likely than their more educated counterparts to feel secure in their future coverage, though college-educated women are slightly less positive about their future benefits than their current coverage.
- * Two-thirds of women feel secure in their future health insurance coverage regardless of marital status, but they are slightly more skeptical of their future coverage.
- * Nonetheless, Connecticut men and women overwhelmingly believe the state government should do more to help uninsured individuals get affordable coverage – with more than eight out of ten women and seven out of ten men advocating state intervention. Moreover, women of color are even more likely than their white counterparts to believe the state should help.
- * Eight out of ten women agree more should be done to help the uninsured regardless of educational attainment or marital status.
- * Republican women are less likely to believe the Connecticut state government should do more to help uninsured people get health insurance, though seven out of ten Republican women still advocate government intervention. Note — Connecticut Republican women are more progressive than Republican women nationwide.

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Women and the Economy

- * Connecticut women do not believe they or their families have shared in the nation's current economic prosperity, and more than half of women say the current economic boom has not reached them and their families. Men, however, are more optimistic, and more than half say the current boom has reached them. Connecticut women mirror women nationwide, while Connecticut men are more likely than their peers nationwide to say the economic boom has reached their doorsteps.
- * Women of color are significantly more pessimistic about their current economic situations than white women, and seven out of ten women of color say the economic boom has not reached their households.
- * Class is increasingly dividing America: College-educated men and women see the economic boom affecting their lives, while non-college-educated men and women feel left behind by the current economy.
- * Unmarried women are significantly less likely than married women to say the economic boom has reached their families, although a majority of both say it has not reached them.
- * Electoral participation distorts feedback on the economy — non-registered women and those less likely to vote are more likely to say the economic boom has not reached their families.
- * As we saw earlier, making ends meet is a large concern for women, particularly non-college-educated women.



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Women in the Work Force

- * Equal pay for equal work is a driving concern, and both men and women agree women are not paid the same as men. However, women are significantly more likely than their male counterparts to say women get paid less than men for the same work. Connecticut women are more likely than women nationwide to think women are paid less than men, whereas men are nearly equal in their response.
- * There are no significant differences across race and education – with a third of women believing women get paid much less than men.
- * Connecticut adults would like to see banks and other financial institutions, by providing greater access to loans and credit, and the government, by providing more low-interest loans, help individuals start and expand their own small businesses.
- * White women are significantly more likely than women of color to enlist the help of financial institutions, while women of color call on the government to provide more low-interest loans, followed by the help of banks. Moreover, women of color are three times as likely as white women to call for increased access to contracts for women and minorities.
- * Solutions are similar across partisan lines, though Republican women are most likely to say financial institutions could do the most to help more small businesses get started.

Connecticut Women's Voices 2000

Center for Policy Alternatives
Lifetime Television
CT Permanent Commission
on the Status of Women



Executive Summary

prepared by Lake Snell Perry & Associates, Insight Research, American Viewpoint,
and Linda Faye Williams of the University of Maryland at College Park

The Time Crunch

- * While half of Connecticut women say it has gotten harder to juggle work and family over the past four years, men split, leaning slightly toward thinking it is easier. Connecticut women are significantly more pessimistic about the time crunch than adults nationwide.
- * Women of color are more likely than white women to say it has gotten harder to juggle work and family demands – just under three-quarters of women of color say it has gotten harder compared to half of white women.
- * A majority of women say it has gotten harder to juggle work and family demands regardless of educational attainment, though non-college-educated women are slightly more likely to think it has gotten much harder.
- * Women most likely to say it is much harder to juggle work and family include younger women, especially young, non-college-educated women, women of color, non-college working women, working women, Independents, residents of New Haven, single women, non-voters, and women who foresee caring for an aging relative.
- * On top of their other responsibilities, half of women say it is likely they will provide care to aging relatives at some point in their lives. Men also foresee this possibility in equal numbers. This possibility seems slightly more likely to residents in Connecticut than adults nationwide.
- * A majority of women foresee caregiving roles regardless of race, though women of color are slightly more likely than white women to say it is likely they will care for an aging relative in the future.



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- * Men and women are divided over what would most help to improve their family lives. At the top of their lists, both place shorter or more flexible hours, followed by a job that pays more. Women, however, are almost twice as likely as men to say they need more help with the housework and family responsibilities.
- * Connecticut men and women resemble adults nationwide, with shorter or more flexible hours and a job that pays more on top.

Women and Technology

- * Seven out of ten Connecticut adults have Internet access either at home or at work. White and college-educated women are significantly more likely than women of color and non-college-educated women to say they have Internet access either at home or at work.

Respondent's Opinions about Policy Proposals

- * The policy agenda is diffuse, and women and men have different priorities for improving peoples' lives. Women place equal pay and benefits, followed by job-independent, affordable health care and retirement benefits that move from job to job at the top of their lists. Men look first to retirement benefits, followed by equal pay and benefits and lower taxes to increase income.
- * Women are significantly more intense in their reactions to proposals than men, and four out of ten women continue to award second tier proposals a ten. On a second tier, both men and women like the idea of available and affordable child care and increasing the minimum wage. Women also add increased training and education in technology to their second tier, while men add stronger gun safety laws. Note, women are significantly more likely than men to say stronger gun safety laws are a good idea.

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- * At the top of their third tier, women list paid family and medical leave, increasing the number of afterschool programs, and support programs to help families with aging parents, while men list support programs, allowing people to invest a portion of their Social Security in the stock market, and better benefits for low-wage part-time workers.
- * Women's list of best ideas differs slightly across generational lines. Although both older and younger women worry about retirement, younger women like best the idea of equal pay, while older women want lower prescription drug costs for the uninsured and stronger gun safety. Non-college educated women place more of an emphasis on affordable health care than their college-educated counterparts.
- * Adults have slightly different priorities when asked personal importance. Women say retirement benefits, a state agency to reduce prescription drug prices, and job-independent health care are most personally important to them. Men place the most personal importance on lower taxes, retirement benefits, and stronger gun safety laws.
- * On a second tier, women place increased training in technology, stronger gun safety laws, and tax credits for health insurance for low-income individuals. Men lead their second tier reforms with increased training and education in technology, low-income tax credits for health insurance, and support programs to help families with aging parents.
- * Of slightly less importance to men and women are better benefits for low-wage, part-time workers. Women are also less personally concerned about allowing people to invest a portion of their Social Security in the stock market, and men are also less personally concerned about increasing the number of afterschool programs.
- * Women say retirement benefits that move from job to job and more job-independent, available and affordable health care, and a state agency to reduce prescription drug prices to the uninsured are the best ideas and are the most personally important to them.
- * Men say retirement benefits and lower taxes to increase income, as well as more job-independent health care are the best ideas and the most important reforms.



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Polling Team

The Pollsters

The *Women's Voices* poll and focus groups were led by a bi-partisan and multi-cultural polling team.

Celinda Lake is President of Lake Snell Perry & Associates, Inc. and is one of the Democratic Party's political strategists. Linda DiVall, founder of American Viewpoint, is a member of the polling team for the GOP House Leadership. Linda Faye Williams is Associate Professor at the University of Maryland at College Park and has consulted with groups such as the National Black Women's Political Caucus and the Coalition of 100 Black Women. Ana M. Rivera, with Insight Research, Inc., works with community-based Hispanic and African American organizations. Laura Harris is Executive Vice President with Americans for Indian Opportunity.

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Survey Methodology

Lake Snell Perry & Associates, American Viewpoint, Insight Research, and Linda Faye Williams of the University of Maryland at College Park designed and administered this survey which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached 600 adults in the state of Connecticut -- 400 women and 200 men. The survey was conducted between September 14-17, 2000. Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from a random digit dial sample. Data was weighted to reflect the Bureau of Census estimates of race and education. The margin of error for the women's sample is +/-4.9% and the margin of error for the men's sample is +/-6.9%.



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Survey Questionnaire

Statewide — CT
Women's Voices/00que-ct.913
September 2000

FINAL
400 women, 200 men
12 minutes

Interview # _____

**FILL OUT ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION
AFTER COMPLETING INTERVIEW**

Questionnaire _ _ _ _ _

Phone # _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ _

Sex of respondent

male 1
female 2

State name _ _ _ _ _

State code _ _ _ _
[enter 1st 2 digits of 5 digit code]

DMA code _ _ _ _
[3-digit code from sample sheet]

Region code _ _ _ _
[enter 1 digit code]

County code _ _ _ _
[enter 2 digit code]

Zip code _ _ _ _ _

Sample Type:

Base Women 1
Men 2

Split Sample:

A 1
B 2

Connecticut Women's Voices 2000

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Survey Questionnaire

Interviewer ID # _ _ _ _

Sex of interviewer

male 1
female 2

Race of interviewer

Caucasian 1
African-American 2
Hispanic 3
Asian 4
Other 5

Completion

Primary number 1
Substitute number 2

Callbacks

First attempt 1
1st callback 2
2nd callback 3
3rd callback 4

Position of complete

within cluster (1-20) _ _

Verification

Verified 1
Not verified 2

Date: _ _ / _ _ / 00

Time begin: _ _ : _ _

Time end: _ _ : _ _



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Survey Questionnaire

STATEWIDE — CONNECTICUT
September 2000

Hello. My name is _____. I'm calling for National Opinion Surveys. We are conducting a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions concerning the problems facing our state and local communities. We are not selling anything, and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation.

Could I please speak with the female 18 years or older in your household who celebrated a birthday most recently?

For the male sample: Could I please speak with the male 18 years or older in your household who celebrated a birthday most recently?

[IF RESPONDENT, CONTINUE]

1. Do you happen to be registered to vote at this address, or have you not had a chance to register to vote?

Registered to vote 1
Not registered 2
(don't know) 3

2. How likely are you to vote in the election this year for President and other offices – are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, are you probably not going to vote, or are you definitely not going to vote?

Almost certain 1
Probably 2
50-50 3
Probably not 4
Definitely not 5
(don't know) 6

3. Now I am going to read you a list of concerns that some people have. Please tell me which one of these you personally worry about the MOST:

READ AND ROTATE

The economy and jobs 1
Education 2
Moral decline 3
Taxes 4
Retirement and Social Security 5
The environment 6

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Survey Questionnaire

Welfare	7
Government spending	8
Health care	9
The cost of housing	10
Crime and violence	11
Abortion	12
(don't know)	13

4. Many people say that the country is in the midst of an economic boom. Thinking about your own financial situation, has the current economic boom reached people like you and your family or not really?

Yes, reached me	1
No	2
(don't know/refused)	3

**[END ASKING ALL, SPLIT SAMPLE A GO TO Q5
SPLIT SAMPLE B GO TO Q12]**

SPLIT SAMPLE A

Now I am going to read you a list of personal concerns that some people have. Thinking about yourself and your family, please tell me whether you personally are very worried, somewhat worried, a little worried, or not worried at all about each of these concerns.

Here's the first one. **[READ CONCERN]**. Are you personally very worried, somewhat worried, a little worried, or not worried at all about that?

[ROTATE Q5-Q11]

	Very worr.	Smwht worr.	Little worr.	Not at all	(don't know)
5. Being able to care for your parents or other relatives as they get older	1	2	3	4	5
6. Making ends meet and being able to afford everyday things	1	2	3	4	5
7. Having enough time to do everything you need to do and still spend time with your family. Are you personally very worried, somewhat worried, a little worried, or not worried at all about that?	1	2	3	4	5
8. Having secure health insurance for your family, even if you lose your job or get sick	1	2	3	4	5



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Survey Questionnaire

9. Your children getting off to a good start, such as being able to buy a home or get a good-paying job 1 2 3 4 5
10. Being able to move up in your job or line of work. Are you personally very worried, somewhat worried, a little worried, or not worried at all about that? 1 2 3 4 5
11. Saving enough for a financially secure retirement 1 2 3 4 5
- [END ASKING SPLIT SAMPLE A, GO TO Q19]



Survey Questionnaire

SPLIT SAMPLE B

Now I am going to read you a list of personal concerns that some people have. Thinking about yourself and your family, please tell me whether you personally are very worried, somewhat worried, a little worried, or not worried at all about each of these concerns.

Here's the first one. **[READ CONCERN]**. Are you personally very worried, somewhat worried, a little worried, or not worried at all about that?

[ROTATE Q12-Q18]	Very worr.	Smwht worr.	Little worr.	Not at all	(don't know)
12. Having affordable and dependable child care	1	2	3	4	5
13. Getting the skills, training and education you need to have good paying jobs in your life. Are you personally very worried, somewhat worried, a little worried, or not worried at all about that?	1	2	3	4	5
14. Your children being able to get a college education	1	2	3	4	5
15. The growing economic gap between the rich and the poor	1	2	3	4	5
16. Moral values declining and our children not learning the right values. Are you personally very worried, somewhat worried, a little worried, or not worried at all about that?	1	2	3	4	5
17. Keeping your children safe from drugs, gangs, and violence	1	2	3	4	5
18. Social Security being enough to support you when you retire	1	2	3	4	5

[END ASKING SPLIT SAMPLE B, GO TO Q19]



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Survey Questionnaire

RESUME ASKING ALL:

19. Compared to four years ago, do you feel it is getting easier or harder to juggle work and family demands? (If better/worse, Ask: Is that much/somewhat easier/harder?)

Much easier 1
 Somewhat easier 2
 Somewhat harder 3
 Much harder 4
 (don't know) 5

20. Which of the following would most help to improve your family life?

READ AND ROTATE

Shorter or more flexible work hours while keeping my
 current benefits 1
 More help with housework 2
 Fewer outside activities that take my time 3
 A job that pays more 4
 More time for my religion, my faith 5
 Quality child care 6
 More help with family responsibilities 7
 Ability to work from home 8
 Ability to start my own business 9
 (none) 10
 (don't know) 11

21. On average, do you think that women get paid less, the same, or more than men who do the same work they do? (If More/Less, Ask: Is that Much/Somewhat/or Just Slightly More/Less?)

Much less 1
 Somewhat less 2
 Slightly less 3
 Same 4
 Slightly more 5
 Somewhat more 6
 Much more 7
 (don't know) 8

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Survey Questionnaire

22. Now for something slightly different. Who could do the MOST to help more small businesses get started and grow?

- The government, by providing matching funds for private savings accounts to help people start businesses 1
- The government, by providing more low-interest loans 2
- The government, by increasing access to contracts for women and minorities 3
- Banks and other financial institutions, by making it easier to qualify for loans and credit 4
- Community colleges and other organizations, by providing more training in business skills 5
- (don't know) 6

23. Now, let me ask you about a different subject. In your view, should more be done to expand the availability of good, affordable child care, or is this something better left to families and individuals?

- More should be done 1
- Leave to families and individuals 2
- (don't know) 3



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Survey Questionnaire

SPLIT SAMPLE A

24. Now, let me ask you about a different subject. How secure do you feel with yours and your family's health insurance coverage — — very secure, somewhat secure, not too secure, not secure at all?

Very secure 1
Somewhat secure 2
Not too secure 3
Not secure at all 4
(don't know) 5

[END ASKING SPLIT SAMPLE A, GO TO Q26]

SPLIT SAMPLE B

25. Now, let me ask you about a different subject. How secure do you feel that you and your family will continue to have health insurance coverage — — very secure, somewhat secure, not too secure, not secure at all?

Very secure 1
Somewhat secure 2
Not too secure 3
Not secure at all 4
(don't know) 5

[END ASKING SPLIT SAMPLE B, GO TO Q26]

RESUME ASKING ALL

26. In your view, should more be done by Connecticut state government to help uninsured people get affordable health insurance or is this something better to left businesses in the marketplace?

More should be done 1
Better to left businesses in the marketplace 2
(don't know) 3

**[END ASKING ALL, SPLIT SAMPLE A GO TO Q27
SPLIT SAMPLE B GO TO Q45]**

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Survey Questionnaire

SPLIT SAMPLE A

Now for something slightly different. I am going to read you a list of items. For each item, please tell me how good of an idea you think it is and rate each on a scale that goes from 0 to 10, where 0 means it is one of the worst ideas, and 10 means it is one of the best ideas.

[ROTATE Q27-Q44]

CODE 0-10,
CODE 99 for DK

27. Equal pay and benefits. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means it is one of the worst and ten means it is one of the best, how good of an idea do you think that is?

28. Flexible and alternative work schedules

29. Available and affordable quality child care

30. Stronger gun safety laws

31. Better benefits for low-wage, part-time and temporary workers. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means it is one of the worst and ten means it is one of the best, how good of an idea do you think that is?

32. Investing public dollars in improving public schools

33. Health care that is more available and affordable, and that is not dependent on your job

34. Providing some income to workers when they take family and medical leave to care for a new baby, a sick child, or an aging parent

35. Setting up a state agency to negotiate with pharmacies and drug companies to bring down the price of prescription drugs for the uninsured. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means it is one of the worst and ten means it is one of the best, how good of an idea do you think that is?



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36. Provide tax credits to low-income families
for health insurance

37. Support programs to help families deal with
aging parents

38. Ensuring access to credit for people who
want to start their own business. On a scale of 0 to 10, where
0 means it is one of the worst and ten means it is one of the best,
how good of an idea do you think that is?

39. Increasing the number of afterschool
programs

**CODE 0-10,
CODE 99 for DK**

40. Increasing the minimum wage

41. Increased training and education in
technology

42. Lower taxes to increase family income. On a scale of 0 to
10, where 0 means it is one of the worst and ten means it is one of the
best, how good of an idea do you think that is?

43. Allow people to take a portion of their
Social Security trust funds to invest privately
in the stock market

44. Retirement benefits and pensions that
can be moved from job to job. On a scale of 0 to 10,
where 0 means it is one of the worst and ten means it is one of the
best, how good of an idea do you think that is?

[END ASKING SPLIT SAMPLE A, GO TO Q63]

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Survey Questionnaire

SPLIT SAMPLE B

Now for something slightly different. I am going to read a list of items that some people have said would make a difference in their lives. For each one, please tell me how important an item is to you personally – one of the most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all.

One Very Smwht Not too Not (don't
of most imp. imp. imp. at all. know)

[ROTATE Q45-Q62]

45. Equal pay and benefits. How important is that to you personally – one of the most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?	1	2	3	4	5	6
46. Flexible and alternative work schedules	1	2	3	4	5	6
47. Available and affordable quality child care .	1	2	3	4	5	6
48. Stronger gun safety laws	1	2	3	4	5	6
49. Better benefits for low-wage, part-time and temporary workers. How important is that to you personally – one of the most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?	1	2	3	4	5	6
50. Investing public dollars in improving public schools	1	2	3	4	5	6
51. Health care that is more available and affordable, and that is not dependent on your job	1	2	3	4	5	6
52. Providing some income to workers when they take family and medical leave to care for a new baby, a sick child, or an aging parent	1	2	3	4	5	6



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53. Setting up a state agency to negotiate with pharmacies and drug companies to bring down the price of prescription drugs for the uninsured. How important is that to you personally – one of the most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all? 1 2 3 4 5 6
54. Provide tax credits to low-income families for health insurance 1 2 3 4 5 6
55. Support programs to help families deal with aging parents 1 2 3 4 5 6
56. Ensuring access to credit for people who want to start their own business. 1 2 3 4 5 6
57. Increasing the number of afterschool programs 1 2 3 4 5 6

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	One of most	Very imp.	Smwht imp.	Not too imp.	Not at all.	(don't know)
58. Increasing the minimum wage. How important is that to you personally – one of the most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?	1	2	3	4	5	6
59. Increased training and education in technology	1	2	3	4	5	6
60. Lower taxes to increase family income. How important is that to you personally – one of the most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?	1	2	3	4	5	6
61. Allow people to take a portion of their Social Security trust funds to invest privately in the stock market	1	2	3	4	5	6
62. Retirement benefits and pensions that can be moved from job to job. How important is that to you personally – one of the most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?	1	2	3	4	5	6
[END ASKING SPLIT SAMPLE B, GO TO Q63]						



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Survey Questionnaire

RESUME ASKING ALL:

Thank you. The few remaining questions are for statistical purposes only.

63. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else?

[IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT ASK:] Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)?

[IF INDEPENDENT ASK:] Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

- Strong Democrat 1
- Not so strong Democrat 2
- indep. leans Democrat 3
- independent 4
- indep. leans Republican 5
- Not so strong Republican 6
- Strong Republican 7
- (dk/na/other) 8

64. What is your age? **[CODE ACTUAL AGE. REFUSED=99]** _____

If Refused:

I am going to read you some age categories. Please stop me when we get to your category:

- 18-25 1
- 26-30 2
- 31-35 3
- 36-40 4
- 41-45 5
- 46-50 6
- 51-55 7
- 56-60 8
- 61-64 9
- Over 65 10
- (refused/don't know) 11

66. Are you married, single, separated, widowed, or divorced?

- Married 1
- Single 2
- Separated/divorced 3
- Widowed 4
- (Don't know) 5

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Survey Questionnaire

67. Do you have any children?

Yes 1
No 2
(don't know) 3



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68. In terms of your job status, are you currently employed, running your own business, unemployed but looking for work, retired, a student, or a homemaker? **[IF MORE THAN ONE: Well, which would you MAINLY use to describe yourself?]**

Employed 1
 Self-employed 2
 Unemployed 3
 Retired 4
 Student 5
 Homemaker 6
 (not able to work) 7
 (other) 8
 (don't know/refused) 9

69. Do you have access to the Internet either at home or at work?

Yes, at home 1
 Yes, at work 2
 Yes, both at home and at work 3
 No 4
 (don't know) 5

70. How would you describe the area in which you live – do you live in a city with over a million people, in a smaller city, in a suburban area outside a city, in a small town, or in a rural area?

City (1 million+) 1
 Smaller city 2
 Suburban area 3
 Small town 4
 Rural area 5
 (don't know) 6

71. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

[CIRCLE ONE - DO NOT READ]

1 - 11th grade 1
 High school graduate 2
 Non-college post H.S.(e.g. tech) 3
 Some college (incl. jr. college or associate degree) 4
 College graduate 5
 Post-graduate school 6
 (don't know) 7

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Survey Questionnaire

72. Do you or does any member of your household belong to a labor union or teacher's association?

- Union household 1
- Teacher's association household 2
- Union and teacher's association household 3
- Non-union household 4
- (don't know) 5

73. At some point in your life, how likely is it that you will be responsible for caring for an aging parent or another elderly person – very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely? If this is something you have already done, please say so.

- Very likely 1
- Somewhat likely 2
- Not very likely 3
- Not at all likely 4
- Have already done it 5
- (don't know) 6

74. Do you think of yourself as a fundamentalist or evangelical Christian or would you not describe yourself that way?

- Yes, Fundamentalist or evangelical 1
- No, 2
- (don't know) 3

75. Just to make sure we have a representative sample, what is your race?

- White 1
- African American 2
- Hispanic (Puerto Rican, Mexican-American, etc.) **(GO TO Q77)** 3
- Asian 4
- Native American 5
- (other) 6
- (don't know/refused) 7



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Survey Questionnaire

ASK Q76 IF NOT HISPANIC IN Q75

76. Do you consider yourself a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking American?

- Yes 1
No 2
(don't know) 3

77. What is your zip code? _____

And finally, strictly for verification purposes, can I have just your first name?

And your phone number to make sure it is correctly marked off of our list?

That completes our public opinion survey. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation, and have a pleasant (day/evening).

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Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women and in furtherance of that responsibility shall: (a) inform leaders of business, education, and state and local governments and the communications media of the nature and scope of the problem of sex discrimination, with a view to enlisting their support in working toward improvement; (b) serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women; (c) promote consideration of qualified women for all levels of government positions; (d) oversee coordination and assess programs and practices in all state agencies as they affect women. The Commission shall annually, by February fifteenth, report to the Governor and the General Assembly the results of its findings of the preceding year with its recommendations for the removal of such injustices as it may find to exist.

Excerpt from Section 46a, Chapter 812 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Center for Policy Alternatives is a national non-profit, non-partisan public policy and leadership development center devoted to community-based solutions that strengthen families and communities. Lifetime is the number one television network for women and is committed to offering the highest quality entertainment and information programming and advocating a wide range of issues affecting women and their families.

For additional copies of this report, or for the complete Connecticut report, contact the PCSW office.



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Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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